

To: Bette Simpson[bettesimpsonj@gmail.com]
Cc: Councilmember Rodriguez[councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org]
From: Eve Sinclair
Sent: Tue 4/30/2019 11:49:41 PM
Subject: Re: Homeless Encampment Hansen Dam and Brush Fires
[FullSizeRender.jpg](#)

In response to your earlier email from Monday, the encampments you are referencing around the overpass that crosses the Little Tujunga creek are not in the City of LA jurisdiction, so the City does not have control or oversight of those areas. I filed a service request with DOT (CSR #751237) reporting these encampments, as well as notifying both the Cal Trans liaison and Assemblymember's office requesting prioritization for removal of these encampments. As of our visit last Tuesday, only one encampment is actually located underneath the overpass itself, while the remainder of the tents are located in the Cal Trans property alongside the freeway (between the shoulder and the fencing demarcating Cal Trans property).

In regards to the Little Tujunga wash itself, it is again not City of LA jurisdiction, so we do not have the ability to clear trees in there or to deal with encampments. Los Angeles County Flood Control District maintains the soft bottom channels, including this area; see ID #87/SBC Reach #099 for the maintenance clearing schedule for Kagel Canyon/Tujunga Wash (<http://dpw.lacounty.gov/itd/WCP/Handler.ashx?path=ROOT%2fDPW%2fLACFCD%2fWDR%2f2017-18+SBC+Schedule.pdf>). It looks like it was last cleared in 2017. You can call LA County's Stormwater Maintenance Division to report the encampment in the wash, as well as the trees you are requesting for them to remove.

In regards to the tents over by Orcas Park, there was an orange tent I reported a while back to Cal Trans, which was cleared on March 29 and fence repairs were done where they had cut through. Unfortunately, they set up again in the same area so I entered another request with Cal Trans to clear it on April 8 (#748841). It sounds like it might be in the same area (along the trail that flanks/parallels the freeway and that people ride their horses and walk dogs on, behind the fenceline). The picture attached to this email is a picture of the encampment on the Cal Trans property. If that is the same area, you can report directly to Cal Trans and notify the Assemblymember's office as well.

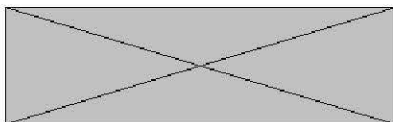
Hansen Dam is an area with many parcels in different jurisdictions, including City of LA, County of Los Angeles, and Army Corps property. We will continue to organize and coordinate the appropriate City of LA agencies to address encampments on City-leased property within Hansen Dam, and in the public right-of-way, as well as continue to report encampments in other jurisdictions to the appropriate contacts to address them. Here are the appropriate contacts for those jurisdictions if you would like to report them as well:

Cal Trans - <https://csr.dot.ca.gov/>

Jude Hernandez - Assemblymember Rivas - (818)504-3911

LA County Flood Control - Stormwater Maintenance Division - (626)458-4146

Lastly, I wanted to give you an update that Rec and Parks is putting together a brush clearance package to do brush clearance on the property at the corner of Foothill and Clybourn within 200 feet of the little structure on the corner. Thanks, and I'll let you know when that has been completed.



Eve Sinclair, Area Director
Sunland-Tujunga Office

Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, 7th District
<7747 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA 91042>

Phone: [818-352-3287](tel:818-352-3287) Fax: [818-875-4554](tel:818-875-4554) www.monicarodriguez.org



On Mon, Apr 29, 2019 at 8:14 AM Bette Simpson <bettesimpsonj@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Morning Eve and Monica,
Thank you for your response.

RE your second paragraph there are 4 or 5 encampments in the area under the 210 freeway overpass in the trees on the south side of the overpass. Your group needed to take a better look if they thought there was only one. They have built little house with lumber. They are hidden in the trees and some are on what I call the concrete over rocks spillway. There is also a tent in the LT Wash on the north side of the freeway. Yesterday afternoon, we had a police helicopter circling that tent for about an hour with cop cars lining both sides of the wash trying to get the people to come out of the tent. One officer that I could see had his shotgun drawn. I did not have a clear view of both sides. Eventually I saw a FB post that said the people came out of the tent and one was taken away in handcuffs.

They never should have been allowed to build their tent and live in the Wash in the first place. It would be appreciated if your office could take a faster, more active and continuous approach to getting these drug addicts, criminals, and whatever out of Hansen Dam, out from under the fringe areas of Hansen Dam and out of the wash. Your office along with the City Council and Mayor Garcetti are letting this happen. The community is upset and mad about the whole thing getting more and more out of control.

Please step up and clear this out. A good way to start is to remove the trees in that area that are hiding the camps and providing shade. Trees should not be in the wash in the first place.

Thank you for your time.



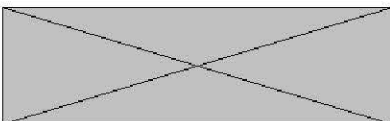
On Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 4:02 PM Eve Sinclair <eve.sinclair@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello, [REDACTED] As I mentioned previously in my email of April 19, our office organized a large coordinated effort with several agencies this past week, including the LAPD Offroad team, the Hansen Dam Park Rangers, the LAPD HOPE team, and LAHSA outreach workers. We spent the day identifying and visiting encampments throughout Hansen Dam, including doing outreach with multiple homeless individuals, cleaning out abandoned encampments, posting 24-hour notice on occupied encampments, and more.

As for your specific question about the encampments under/around the overpass that crosses the Little Tujunga creek, per the Master Maintenance Agreement between the City of LA and the State of California, the City of LA (in this case, Rec and Parks) is responsible for the ground/facilities running under the freeway, and Cal Trans is responsible for encampments on the actual freeway structure itself (there was only one encampment under the freeway overpass when we were there and it was located up in the rafters of the freeway). In addition, Cal Trans holds jurisdiction and maintenance on the Cal Trans property running alongside the 210 freeway, where the tents are located in that area. Nevertheless, the police spoke with the men there and they began packing up. In addition, I have reported these encampments to Cal Trans through <https://csr.dot.ca.gov/> and also to Jude Hernandez of the Assemblymember's office and asked for prioritization in these encampments being addressed.

In regards to the rights of the homeless in the City of Los Angeles, I will refer you to a page on the LA City Attorney's website that discusses the laws regarding homelessness, recent court decisions that impact enforcement, and other information you might find relevant to this issue: <https://www.lacityattorney.org/homelessness>.

Thanks again for reaching out to our office. We will continue to organize and coordinate the appropriate City of LA agencies to address encampments within Hansen Dam, as well as continue to report encampments in other jurisdictions to the appropriate contacts to address them. I am also sharing with you again a link to LAHSA's Homeless Outreach Portal (<https://www.lacounty.gov/lahop/>), which enables anyone to report any type of homeless individual, encampment, vehicle dwelling, etc directly to outreach workers. Once the outreach workers connect with the homeless, they can begin the process to move them into shelter.



Eve Sinclair, Area Director
Sunland-Tujunga Office

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On Wed, Apr 24, 2019 at 11:52 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Morning,

I spoke with Jude Fernandez about the Cal Trans encampment at the Osborne exit off the 210. I guess it is on the list and he said to check back in about 30 days. Meanwhile this camp is growing.

On another matter, I was made aware through a FB post that you (Eve) took a little trip in an ATV through Hansen Dam re inspecting for the encampments down there. The post also showed the now several camps on the south side of the 210 built on what I call the spillway embankment in the LT wash. This is growing as well. This area provides shade and water for these camps. This person also posted that she was told it is ok for these camps to be there. Can you comment on that please. It is impossible to ride through there now as they spook the horses. They are hidden in the brush and trees and when they move suddenly the tarps start flapping or they make noise,, the horses refuse to go through there, some turn and try to bolt back in the direction they came. This is dangerous to both horses and riders. Basically they have cut off the safe access for horses from the north to Hansen Dam. Is this ok?

Who is responsible for this area? Officer Torres has said it is Rec and Parks but they have done nothing about removing these camps. Who is the park for exactly? Are the homeless druggies allowed to have camps in all LA City parks or just ours? Do they have more and better rights than the community who lives here? And need I even have to repeat that this is a huge fire danger to LVT and the people living on Clybourn. This ties into my long standing request to have the bamboo and dead brush removed from the trail head on corner of Foothill and Clybourn. A request that has been spinning around for nearly a year.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Apr 23, 2019 at 9:15 AM Bette Simpson <bettesimpsonj@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Morning Eve and Monica,

We had another fire in Hansen Dam last night. This is the 2nd one that I know of in this location in a week and around the 5th or 6th one this month in Hansen Dam. Another addict camp warning fire is what I hear. Some of them are camp fires, some are deliberate arson which you guys insist on calling Brush Fires.

Where are you and the others with clearing out these drug addicts camps in Hansen Dam? Are you at all focused on keeping us safe or are you focused on protecting what you call the Homeless? Open fires are illegal in Hansen Dam. Are these people getting arrested? If not what is the punishment? They are allowed to keep their little camp obviously. So they are getting another slap on the wrist while the community waits for the winds and prays?

My corner still hasn't been cleared.

There are so many agencies involved with HD it makes it easy to point a finger elsewhere and keep the community busy chasing our tail. CD7 needs to take this on, make it happen and do the follow up. Please!

[REDACTED]

Bette Simpson

On Fri, Apr 19, 2019 at 12:06 AM Eve Sinclair <eve.sinclair@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello, [REDACTED]. As I mentioned earlier, the encampment along the Osborne freeway off ramp is located on property owned by Cal Trans, a state agency. Unfortunately, it is not part of the City of LA right-of-way, so the City does not have jurisdiction on that property. After the clearing of the previous encampments in the vicinity, when this encampment reformed near the off-ramp, I reported this both to Cal Trans directly and also to Jude Hernandez of the office of Assemblymember Rivas, who can help navigate state agencies. I am including a link to Cal Trans here where you can also file a report on this particular encampment: <https://csr.dot.ca.gov/>. I am also including contact information below for Jude Hernandez, the area rep for Lake View Terrace for the Assemblymember's office.

Jude Anthony Hernandez

Field Representative | Assemblywoman Luz Rivas AD39

9300 Laurel Cyn Blvd. 1st Floor

Arleta CA, 91331

Phone: (818) 504-3911

Fax: (818) 767-3907

Email: jude.hernandez@asm.ca.gov

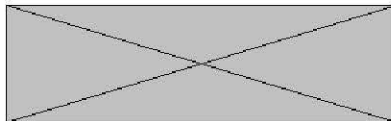
As for Hansen Dam and encampments, our office is currently organizing a large coordinated effort with several agencies, including the LAPD Offroad team, the Park Rangers, LAPD HOPE team, and LAHSA outreach workers. Thank you for reaching out to our office, and I will keep you posted with updates.

Also, I am attaching our current one-pager on resources the Councilwoman has secured to combat homelessness in our district, as well as information on how to report homeless encampments and vehicle dwelling. I am also including a couple of short videos that you made find helpful, including one on our pilot Safe Parking program. You can find out more about that program below:

<https://www.lacounty.gov/lahop/> - Los Angeles Homeless Outreach Portal - how to use

<https://www.lahsa.org/videos?v=241-safe-parking-in-council-district-7-> - CD7's Safe Parking program

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEFIRkkupo4> - LAFH's Campus



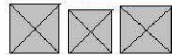
Eve Sinclair, Area Director

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On Thu, Apr 18, 2019 at 9:34 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Eve,

Would really like to hear back from you.

FYI, there was some sort of trash fire last night on Clybourn at the corner where it meets Foothill. This is exactly what sends shards of fear through me. The firemen put it out. As usual comments are not forthcoming about how it started. Thank God there was no wind last evening. It is just a matter of time. Do we have to wait for a "dead horse" before anyone does anything?

Oh and the encampment along the Osborne off ramp was still there last time I looked. Why doesn't Monica open up the lawn and the parking lot at the Sunland Tujunga office for these folks if the City is so intent on protecting them?

Bette Simpson
310 488 3676

On Fri, Apr 12, 2019 at 2:00 PM Bette Simpson <bettesimpsonj@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Eve,

We spoke a couple of weeks ago about the increasing number of fires in Hansen Dam being started by the homeless.

I told you about the large encampment across from the park entrance on Foothill, recently run out by the police, and that they had moved to the gully that runs along the Osborne exit off the 210 ending at Foothill. That encampment is still there and growing. It is difficult to report it on 311 because they ask for an address and a general description is not acceptable.

Were you able to report this as promised?

Also you were going to look into why the brush in the gully at Clybourn & Foothill has yet to be cleared. It is on Army Corps of Engineer property supposedly leased by Rec and Parks, City of LA. This goes back to emails starting last August 2018. No one is taking responsibility for this property. What were you able to find out about this? No brush has been cleared and there have been 3 or 4 fires in Hansen Dam since we last spoke.

